

AFRICAN UNION

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UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Telephone: +251 11 551 7700 Fax: +251 115182072
Website: www.au.int

**2nd ORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
ON YOUTH, CULTURE AND SPORTS
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
13 – 17 JUNE 2016**

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

1. INTRODUCTION

The 2nd session of the Specialized Technical Committee Meeting on Youth, Culture and Sport (STC-YCS2) will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 13 to 17 June 2016 under the theme: “**African Year of Human Rights: Promoting Ethics and Cultural Diversity as an Essential Right for the People of Africa**”. The theme of the STC-YCS2 is in line with the overall theme of the Union for 2016 which is: “**African Year of Human Rights, with Particular Focus on the Rights of Women.**” The second session is also taking place at a time of the 10th Anniversary of the African Youth Charter, a major human rights legal instrument on the rights of the Youth on the continent. The STC-YCS2 will be organized as follows:

13 - 15 June 2016: Meeting of Experts

16 - 17 June 2016: Meeting of Ministers

The 2nd session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Youth, Culture and Sport will be held a few days after the celebration marking the 10th Anniversary of the African Union Youth Charter (the Banjul+10). The commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the Youth Charter was an opportunity to advance the agenda for youth empowerment and development in all member states by ensuring mutual accountability on the obligations of African Youth Charter and re-affirming commitments in the Decade of Youth 2009 – 2018 and its Plan of Action. The outcome documents of the Banjul+ 10 celebration will be presented to the STC-YCS2 for consideration, adoption and implementation by AU Member States.

2. POLICY CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

The policy context and justification for the STC-YCS2 is as follows:

2.1 Youth

The youth development policy at the continental level has rapidly evolved since the adoption of the African Youth Charter, which to date remains the premier continental youth policy document. In actualizing the charter, other policy frameworks have been adopted including the Youth Decade Plan of Action, Malabo decision on Youth Empowerment, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Continental Policy Framework, AU gender policies and Agenda 2063. The seventh ordinary session of the assembly of the African Union in June/July 2011 was dedicated to accelerating youth empowerment for sustainable development. The Summit in its decision Assembly/AU/Dec.363 (XVII) reaffirmed the African Youth Charter (2006) as an instrument to establish the minimum standard in which the youth in Africa should exist; furthermore, mandated the APRM to also include charter as an indicative measure in its review process. One of the key outcomes of the meeting was commitment to reduce youth unemployment by 2% annually by the AU Heads of State and General Assembly. The 24th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of States and Governments adopted the Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment, Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Development. The Declaration and Plan of Action are built on Six Key Priority Areas (KPA), of which KPA 2 is on youth and women

employment. This has since been elaborated to respond not only to the programme priorities laid down in other frameworks of relevance, notably the overarching blueprint for continental action on employment, social protection and inclusive development – the Ouaga + 10 Declaration and Plan of Action – but also the Social Policy Framework (SPF); the Social Protection Plan for the Informal Economy and Rural Workers (SPIREWORK); the Programme on Upgrading the Informal Economy; the Productivity Agenda for Africa; the Youth and Women Employment Pact; the Comprehensive Advanced Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) and the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa among others. A holistic approach in the implementation of the charter cannot therefore be gainsaid, hence the need of strengthening the interface between youth, culture and sports.

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government decided at their 26th Ordinary Summit in Addis Ababa on 31st January, 2016 to devote the theme for 2017 to **“Harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in the Youth”**. The Assembly requested “the African Union Commission (AUC) to work with the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the NEPAD Agency, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other United Nations and Development agencies to expedite the implementation of a continental initiative on Demographic Dividend for Africa, and to develop a roadmap with key deliverables and milestones to be adopted during the 27th session of the Assembly in July 2016, that would guide Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on concrete actions to be undertaken in 2017 and beyond”. The Assembly’s decision comes at a critical time, as the investments made in the youth will have a significant impact on the nature of implementation and success of the Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In response to the Assembly’s decision, the Commission, together with key partners, has embarked on a consultative process with Member States and various stakeholders to provide inputs into a demographic dividend roadmap that would guide the commemoration of the 2017 theme, to be submitted for consideration of the Assembly at its 27th ordinary session in Kigali in July 2016.

Health is a key pillar of achieving the demographic dividend, and as part of the consultative process, the Commission on 21 May 2016 seized the opportunity of the Meeting of Ministers of Health, as a Working Group of the STC on Health, Population and Drug Control (STC-HPDC) to request their input into the demographic dividend roadmap. In addition, key health related proposals, including from the Africa Health Strategy, the Maputo Plan of Action and other relevant health policies would be reflected in the Demographic Dividend Roadmap of 2017. It is pertinent to recall that during the first session of the STC-HPDC in April 2015, Ministers stressed on the inclusion of demographic dividend for Africa’s transformation and inclusive development cognisant of its cross cutting nature.

The STC-YCS2 is taking place at an opportune time as it would provide Ministers, and their Experts (like their Health and Population counterparts), as well as other participants with an important opportunity to make inputs into a roadmap being developed by the Commission and Partners on the 2017 theme of **“harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth”**.

2.2 Culture

The Charter for African Cultural Renaissance adopted by the 6th Assembly of the African Union held in Khartoum, the Sudan in January 2016 is the guiding policy tool for the promotion of the cultural and heritage sector in the continent. However the Charter has only been ratified by eight (08) AU Member States even though thirty one (31) have signed it. The entry into force of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance will enable that the sector takes its rightful place and contributes significantly to the development of the continent through heritage and its cultural and creative industries sector.

Other Policy instruments of the culture and heritage sector include: the African Union Plan of Action on Cultural and Creative industries (2008) and the African Union Model on the Protection of Heritage (under development).

The African Union Agenda 2063 being a framework for Africa's development for the next fifty (50) years presents itself as a crucial source to guide and inform initiatives by Member States to provide their contribution from the culture and heritage sectors to the sustainable development of the Continent. Aspiration five (05) of the AU Agenda 2063 addresses cultural issues and it aspires: " An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics; inculcating the spirit of Pan-Africanism; tapping Africa's rich heritage and culture to ensure that the creative arts are major contributors to Africa's growth and transformation.

The 2nd session of the STC-YCS2 will also provide an opportunity for the review and adoption of the Report on the Status of the African Audio-Visual and Cinema Sector and the Draft Statute of the African Audio Visual and Cinema Commission (AACC) in line with the Executive Council Decision of 2003 on the establishment of the African Audio Visual and Cinema Commission. The establishment of the AACC will enhance the development of the cultural and creative industries of the continent, especially those related to audio visual and cinema so that they can provide more meaningful contribution to the socio-economic development of the continent.

It is crucial that the continental cultural policies stated above are ratified, popularized and implemented to enhance sustainable economic growth and the provision of productive employment, decent work for the youth and women of the continent. The development of the youth creativity through up scaling of arts education is a prerequisite for this achievement.

2.3 Sport

The Policy Framework for the Sustainable Development of Sport in Africa (2008-2018) is an instrument designed to provide a common policy on the use of sport as a tool for development by Member States of the African Union and peoples. As such, the Policy Framework provides direction for the mainstreaming of issues related to sport not only to promote excellence, but also to use sport as a vehicle for social and economic development and integration, peace and security on the Continent.

In an effort to unpack and to implement the Policy Framework for the Sustainable Development of Sport in Africa, the Member States adopted the new Architecture for Sport in Africa, a framework aimed at re-positioning sport to contribute to the broader government and African Union development agenda. The Architecture was designed to promote synergy, coordination and harmonization of sport development programmes on the continent, which, among others, include better coordination, management and organization of the African Games, establishment of a Specialized Office under the AUC (the African Union Sports Council Secretariat) to handle technical and operational aspects of sport development and development through sport in Africa, including the organization of the African Games.

The 2nd session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Youth, Culture and Sport will provide an opportunity to consider efforts made by the Commission to engage member states for the hosting of African Games and eventually endorse the interest expressed by the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to host 2019 African Games.

3. AIM OF THE STC-YCS2

The purpose of the STC-YCS2 is to provide a common platform for Ministers of Youth, Culture and Sport and Senior Officials to review progress on the implementation of decisions of the STC-YCS1 and to deliberate on the theme of the conference as well as on specific issues pertaining to the three (3) sectors. The STC –YCS2 will also enhance the establishment of synergies between the three (3) sectors as highlighted in the first STC-YCS1 which was held under the theme: ***“Building the Interface between Youth, Culture and Sport”***

3.1 Specific Objectives

- a) To review progress made on the implementation of the decisions of the 1st Specialized Technical Committee Meeting on Youth, Culture and Sport (STC-YCS1);
- b) To deliberate on the theme of the Specialized Technical Committee 2 (STC-YCS2): ***“African Year of Human Rights: Promoting Ethics and Cultural Diversity as an Essential Right for the People of Africa”*** and come up with key strategies and recommendations for the promotion of ethics and cultural diversity as an essential right for the people of Africa .
- c) To adopt key decisions for the Youth, Culture and Sport sectors including:
 - The Banjul + 10 Declaration;;
 - The roadmap on on the 2017 theme of “harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth”;
 - The Report on the Status of the African Audio Visual and Cinema Sector and recommend the Statute of the African Audio Visual and Cinema Commission (AACC) to the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs;
 - The Report and Framework for Action of the IV Pan-African Cultural Congress (PACC4);
 - The Reports of the African Academy of Languages; CELHTO and OCPA;
 - The Report of the 12 Edition of African Games 2015-Congo Brazzaville;

- Report of activities by African Union Sport Development Council Regions 2,4 and 5;
- Promotion and advocating on the use of sport games to teach School Subjects;
- WADA-Africa activities;
- Report on the International Working Group on Women and Sport and Africa;
- Hosting of the 7 International working group on Women and Sport Conference 2018;
- The Hosting of the 2019 African Games.

4. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- a) Renewed impetus for the implementation of the African Youth Charter, towards Youth Development and Empowerment in Africa;
- b) Banjul+10 declaration and two years action towards accelerated implementation of the African Youth Decade Plan of Action endorsed;
- c) Inputs into Draft of roadmap of activities for the commemoration of AU 2017 theme on “Harnessing Demographic Dividend through investments in youth” endorsed;
- d) The commitment to urgently ratify the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance of 2006 renewed;
- e) Recommendations on the African Audio Visual and Cinema Sector and the draft Statute of the African Audio Visual and Cinema Commission (AACC) endorsed;
- f) The Recommendations and Framework for Action of the IV Pan-African Cultural Congress (PACC4) adopted;
- g) Key recommendations for improvement emerging from the 12 Edition of African Games 2015-Congo Brazzaville endorsed
- h) The use of sport games to teach School Subjects advocated and promoted;
- i) Key recommendations on doping in sport endorsed;
- j) Sport on Women empowerment and Leadership promoted;
- k) Host country for the 2019 African Games endorsed.

5. EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS

- Member States – through their respective Ministries of Youth Sports and Culture (which will include Ministers and Senior Officials);
- The Pan African Youth Union – executive committee members
- Youth Organizations: Regional Youth Organizations, National Youth Councils, Civil society, Diaspora Youth;
- Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
- African Union Sport Development Regions
- Pan African Cultural Organizations
- Sport Organizations
- UN Organizations
- Thematic experts;
- Media
- The AU Policy Organs

6. VENUE AND DATE

The 2nd Specialized Technical Committee Meeting on Youth, Culture and Sport (STC-YCS2) will be held in at the African Union Commission Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 13 to 17 June 2016.

7. LANGUAGES

The languages of the 2nd Specialized Technical Committee Meeting on Youth, Culture and Sport (STC-YCS2) will be held four (4) working languages of the African Union: English, French, Arabic and Portuguese.

8. CONTACT PERSONS

- a) African Union Commission, Department of Social Affairs
Amb. Olawale Maiyegun
Director for Social Affairs
Email: MaiyegunO@Africa-Union.Org CC: MartinsA@Africa-Union.org ;
ShepandeM@Africa-Union.Org and Kessyl@Africa-Union.Org
Website: www.africaunion.int
- b) African Union, Department of Human Resources Science and Technology (HRST)
Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo
Acting Director for HRST
Email: OuedraogoM@Africa-Union.Org CC: NjengaB@Africa-Union.Org ;
Nonkululekon@Africa-Union.Org and AduгнаD@Africa.Union.Org
Website: www.africaunion.int